

Act" (H.R. 7523) last Congress applying the very same "Buy America" requirements for FAA Airport Improvement Grants (49 USC 50101) to any airport project financed under TIFIA.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members to cosponsor the "Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act for Airports." As a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I plan to make this a major priority in my work.

HONORING FIREFIGHTER TERRY BAKER

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Firefighter Terry Baker for his 35 years of service with the Meyersdale Volunteer Fire Department in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Firefighters' commitment and service to our community are invaluable. Volunteer firefighters often are called on to respond to emergencies of all types. From battling structure fires to conducting search and rescue operations, volunteer firefighters respond immediately whenever disaster strikes. These heroes often go above and beyond—they teach first aid, educate students about fire and other dangerous hazards, and even install car safety seats for children. Through their diverse and often-difficult work, volunteer firefighters provide lifesaving services and are a staple of our local community.

Firefighter Baker has worked throughout his career to serve the people of Somerset County. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank him for his work to protect life and property in our community and wish him continued health, safety, and success.

IN SUPPORT OF S. 937 AND H. RES. 275

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 937, which brings perpetrators of recent hate crimes against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community to justice, and H. Res. 275, which mourns the targeting and killing of AAPI women in recent shootings in Atlanta.

American history documents many dark periods of racism against the AAPI community. In 1854, the California Supreme Court ruled that Asian people were unfit to testify against White people in court. In 1871, seventeen Chinese men and boys were publicly lynched in Los Angeles. The convictions of the perpetrators were overturned and no one was punished. Starting in 1882, the Chinese Exclusion Act prohibited immigration from China. In the 1940s, the U.S. military imprisoned tens of thousands of Japanese Americans during World War II over unfounded fears of immigrants aiding the enemy, even though no

spies were ever found. This is but a short list of horrific acts of anti-AAPI racism in our country's history.

Over the last year, there has been an exponential increase of anti-Asian rhetoric and hate crimes directed against the AAPI community. We had a president who placed blame on Asian Americans for the coronavirus, fanning the flames of intolerance and hatred. This intolerance is unAmerican and we cannot accept it.

Between March 19, 2020, and February 28, 2021, there were nearly 3,800 reported cases of anti-Asian discrimination related to COVID-19, with 68 percent of reported incidents of anti-Asian hate targeted toward Asian-American women. These include violent attacks on innocent Asian Americans, including the most vulnerable among us, like pregnant women, children, and the elderly.

We must fight this bigotry and prosecute perpetrators of hate crimes. The COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act does this by directing the DOJ to expedite review of hate crimes; strengthening hate crimes reporting by local, state, and Tribal agencies; and raising awareness about COVID-19-related hate crimes.

I'm proud to cosponsor H.R. 1843, the House companion to S. 937, and I thank Senator MAZIE HIRONO, Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH, and Representative GRACE MENG for their important leadership in authoring this critical legislation.

One of the worst instances of anti-AAPI hate occurred on March 16, 2021, when a shooter killed eight people at three Asian-owned spas in the greater Atlanta area. Six of the victims were Asian-American women. In H. Res. 275, the House mourns the victims of this horrific shooting, and I'm a cosponsor of it.

I wish to acknowledge the names of the victims because we must never forget them: Xiaojie "Emily" Tan, Daoyou Feng, Delaina Ashley Yaun, Paul Andre Michels, Yong Ae Yue, Soon Chung "Julie" Park, Hyun Jung Grant, and Sun Cha Kim.

I thank my colleagues who led this resolution, Reps. JUDY CHU, CAROLYN BOURDEAUX, NIKEMA WILLIAMS, and LUCY MCBATH, together with Senator Rev. RAPHAEL WARNOCK, who led the Senate resolution.

I am exceedingly proud to represent a vibrant community of hundreds of thousands of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in California's 18th Congressional District which celebrates diversity as a strength and uses it as a source of our collective power.

Over the last several weeks, I've attended rallies throughout my District where hundreds have gathered to stand against AAPI hate and celebrate the AAPI community. I've stood arm-in-arm with my AAPI brothers and sisters, colleagues, constituents, neighbors, and friends to fight xenophobia, and I will continue doing so.

I urge my colleagues to swiftly and unanimously pass S. 937 and H. Res. 275 to speak out, stand up, and fight Asian hate in all its ugly forms.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF ALMYRA ROURKE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Almyra Rourke on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Her contributions to our community as a Rosie the Riveter are worthy of commendation.

Born in Shiawassee County, Michigan she studied bookkeeping at Lansing Business College. After graduation, her work brought her to Ypsilanti where the Willow Run Bomber Plant was in need of workers in the payroll department. When she went into the interview, the worker who interviewed her told her that she would be let go after the war since this was another man's job. She started work that day along with six fellow graduates, the only women in a room full of men.

What she had been told was a temporary role, became a career. After the war ended, Mrs. Rourke was transferred to Dearborn, Michigan and worked at Ford Motor Company for ten more years. At Willow Run, she worked on the balcony above the factory floor, and didn't think of herself as a Rosie the Riveter because she was not building the planes, but a friend told her: "I couldn't have built those bombers if you weren't there to make sure I got paid every Friday. You're as much a Rosie as I am!" As a Rosie, Almyra's hard work, grit, and patriotism not only sustained the American war effort, but paved a path for the next generation of working women.

After the war, she married Laurence Rourke, who served in the 3rd Armored Division and was on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day. Mrs. Rourke eventually left work to take care of her three children, Shirlee, Edward, and Laurene. She was a Troop Leader and Mr. Rourke was a Scoutmaster. They were active members of St. John the Baptist Church in Ypsilanti. After the children left for college, they kept active through square dancing clubs in Ann Arbor and by travelling the world—reaching all fifty states and even attending the sixtieth anniversary of the liberation of Belgium in 2004.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Almyra Rourke on her 100th birthday. I join with her family and friends in extending my best and warmest wishes to her on this special day. I am proud to honor her life, her accomplishments, and her invaluable contributions to our Nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD FEDERAL EMPLOYEE LEAVE FAIRNESS ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia National Guard Federal Employee Leave Fairness Act, which would correct a legislative drafting error and clarify that members of the D.C. National Guard (DCNG) who are federal civilian employees are entitled to leave without loss in